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THE LINCOLN HOME

The Lincoln Home is one of the most significant historic sites associated with America's beloved sixteenth President. It is the only home Abraham Lincoln ever owned.

Lincoln came to Springfield in 1837 as a young lawyer. It was here that he met, courted and married Mary Todd. In 1844, soon after the birth of their first child, Robert, Mr. Lincoln purchased the five-year-old house.

During the 17 years they lived in the Home, Mrs. Lincoln gave birth to three more sons — Edward, William and Thomas — who brought joy to the family. There were also days of tribulation and mourning. It was here that Eddy died.

In 1856, twelve years after the Lincolns purchased it, the house was enlarged in order to meet the needs of the growing family. This reflected Abraham Lincoln's increasing prosperity and professional stature. Here he grew from a self-taught lawyer with local political interests into the great statesman the world remembers as America's sixteenth President.

THE LATER HISTORY OF THE HOME

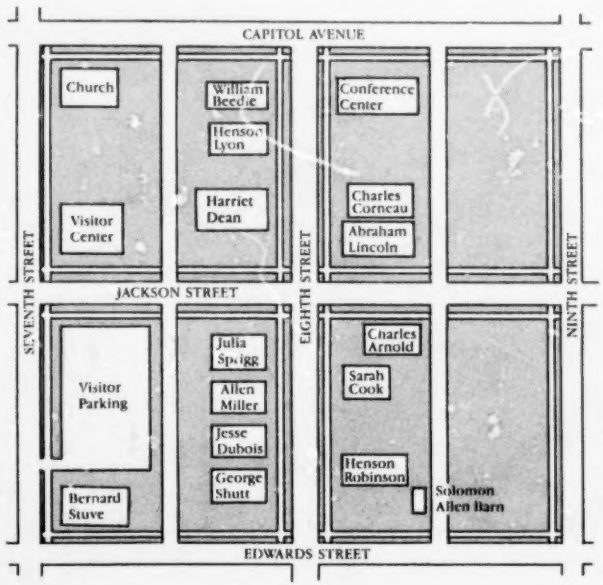
When the Lincoln family left Springfield for the White House in 1861, the house was rented to Lucian Tilton, President of the Great Western Railroad. After Mr. Lincoln's death in 1865, the family continued to own the house and to rent it out.

In 1887, Robert Todd Lincoln, Mr. Lincoln's oldest son, donated the Home to the State of Illinois, which administered it until 1972. On August 18, 1971, President Nixon signed legislation authorizing the Secretary of the Interior to establish the Lincoln Home National Historic Site.

THE HISTORIC SITE

Lincoln Home National Historic Site encompasses four city blocks in downtown Springfield, Illinois. Surrounding the Lincoln Home, an Historic Zone preserves 12 homes of Lincoln's neighbors from 1860. The Lincolns were well-acquainted with the people of their neighborhood and enjoyed friendships with many of them. The Historic Zone maintains the appearance and atmosphere of this neighborhood.

The Site Visitor Center offers the public an opportunity to view exhibits, movies, and special programs. The Lincoln Home National Historic Site is administered by the National Park Service, U.S. Department of the Interior. A superintendent whose address is 426 South Seventh Street, Springfield, IL 62701, is in immediate charge.



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OTHER LINCOLN RELATED HISTORIC SITES IN THE SPRINGFIELD AREA

Lincoln's New Salem State Historic Site. During the 6 years Lincoln spent in this frontier village, he tried his hand at a variety of occupations and embarked upon a career of law and public service. The village and its cabins have been restored.

Old State Capitol. Here Lincoln argued more than 200 cases before the Illinois Supreme Court, addressed many political meetings, and gave his famous "House Divided" speech. The interior has been restored to reflect its historic appearance.

Lincoln-Herndon Law Office. This is the only surviving structure in which Abraham Lincoln had a law office. The interior contains restored courtrooms, law offices, and an audiovisual presentation.

Lincoln's Great Western Depot. Here Lincoln boarded a train for his journey to Washington DC, where he would be inaugurated as President. The Depot interior contains restored rooms, exhibits, and an audiovisual presentation.

Lincoln's Tomb State Historic Site. This imposing structure in Oak Ridge Cemetery is the final resting place of Mary and Abraham Lincoln and three of their children. The exterior and interior display a notable collection of bronze statuary.

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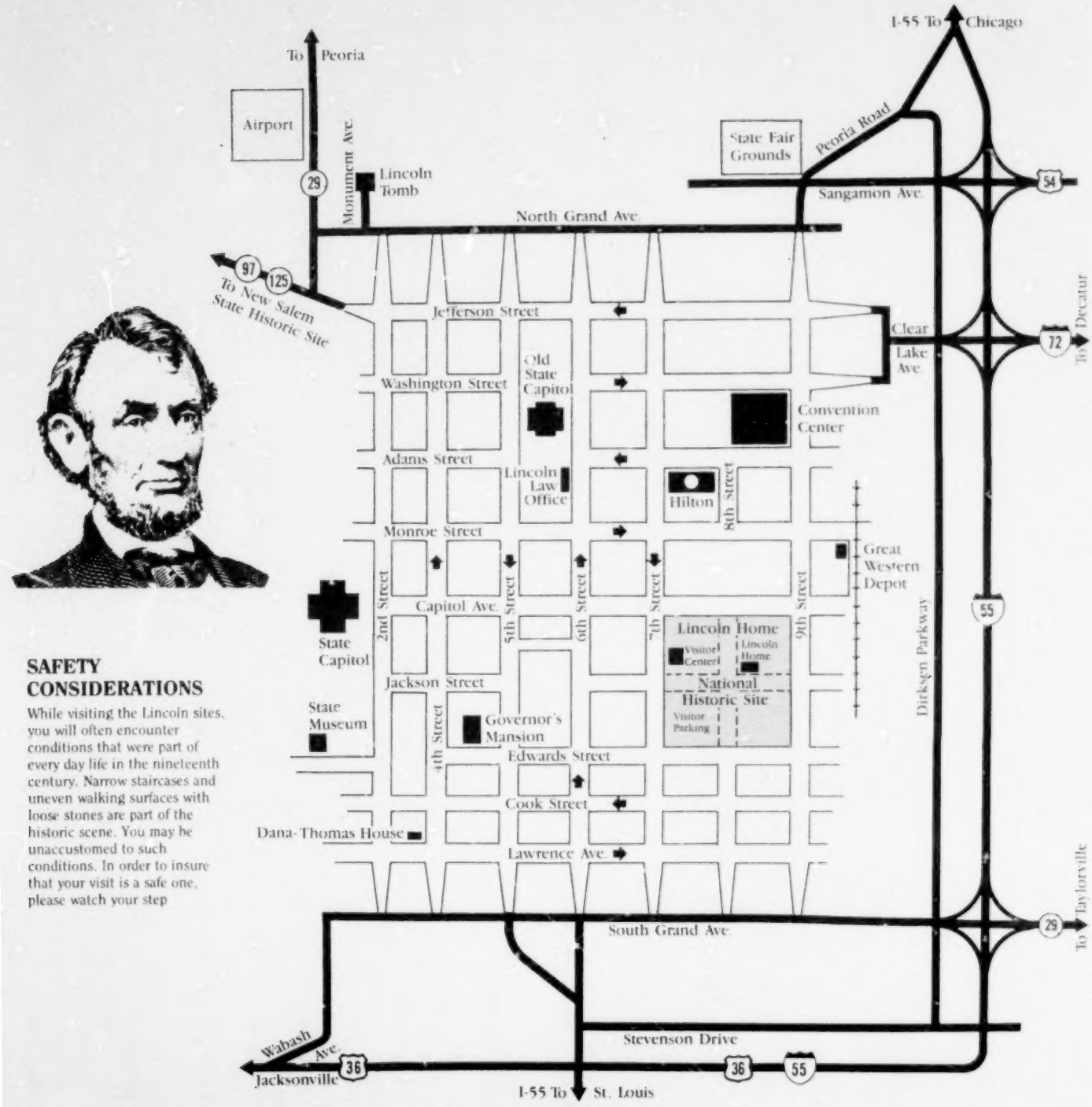
Lincoln Home National Historic Site

Mr. Lincoln's Springfield



SAFETY CONSIDERATIONS

While visiting the Lincoln sites, you will often encounter conditions that were part of every day life in the nineteenth century. Narrow staircases and uneven walking surfaces with loose stones are part of the historic scene. You may be unaccustomed to such conditions. In order to insure that your visit is a safe one, please watch your step

U.S. Department of the Interior
National Park Service
Lincoln Home National Historic Site